

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 00611 01 OF 02 091207Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-04 PM-03 DODE-00 /055 W

-----091218Z 108633 /15

O 091120Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4009

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 0611

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, EAIR, TZ, KE

SUBJECT: TANZANIA CLOSURE OF BORDER WITH KENYA

REF: A) NAIROBI 1693 (NOTAL), B) DAR ES SALAAM 590 (NOTAL)

1. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS. TANZANIAN PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT MANAGERS OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES HAVE REACTED PHILOSOPHICALLY AT PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME UNTIL SUPPLIES ARRIVE FROM NEW SOURCES TO REPLACE THOSE HERETOFORE PROVIDED FROM KENYA. THEY RECALL WITH A SHRUG PAST ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS ATTENDANT ON NATIONALIZATIONS OF BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES AND MOST FOREIGN CORPORATIONS HERE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MINISTRY OF TRADE DIRECTIVE ORALLY ANNOUNCED AT 8 FEBRUARY MEETING, MANAGERS ARE NOW PREPARING REPORT DUE 11:00 A.M. 9 FEBRUARY IDENTIFYING NON-KENYAN SUPPLIERS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAR ES 00611 01 OF 02 091207Z

COSTS INVOLVED IN IMMEDIATELY SWITCHING PROCUREMENT, INCLUDING TEMPORARY SHUT DOWNS OF PRODUCTION. THEY ARE TAKING VIEW THAT ENDING OF TANZANIAN RELIANCE ON KENYAN SUPPLIERS WAS LONG-TERM TANGOV POLICY NOW BEING HASTILY IMPLEMENTED. SOME PROFESS TO BE PLEASED AT PROSPECT KENYAN ECONOMY WILL SUFFER GREATER IMPACT THAN TANZANIA BY CESSATION TRADE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, BASING THEIR VIEW ON TRADITIONALLY FAVORABLE KENYAN BALANCE OF

TRADE WITH TANZANIA. NONE SEEM TO BE OVERLY CONCERNED THAT BAN MIGHT NOT BE TEMPORARY. (1975 TANZANIAN EXPORTS TO KENYA \$24 MILLION, IMPORTS FROM KENYA \$57 MILLION.)

3. POLITICAL BACKGROUND. PIECING TOGETHER CONVERSATIONS OF LAST FEW DAYS, FOLLOWING PICTURE BEGINS TO EMERGE FROM TANZANIANS OF TANZANIAN PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT IS TRANSPIRING.

4. ORIGINS. FURTHEREST BACK ANY TANZANIAN HAS GONE TO BEGIN RECITATION OF ALLEGED KENYAN MISDEEDS IS AUGUST 13, 1976 MEETING IN MOMBASA OF PRESIDENTS NYERERE AND KENYATTA TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. TANZANIANS SAY PRESIDENT NYERERE TOOK POSITION THAT IF PROBLEMS OF COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY AIRLINE, WERE INSOLUBLE OPERATIONS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED IN FRIENDLY MANNER, WITH SORROW RATHER THAN RANCOR. KENYATTA ASSURED NYERERE PROBLEMS WOULD BE SOLVED AND AIRLINE, ETC., WOULD STAY IN BUSINESS.

5. TANZANIANS SAY THAT SINCE THAT TIME THEY PAID SUBSTANTIAL SUMS TO AIRLINE, ALL OF WHICH DISAPPEARED WHEN IT WAS GROUNDED. THERE IS MUCH BACKBITING WITHIN TANGOV AS TO WHETHER CERTAIN TANZANIAN OFFICIALS WERE FOOLS OR KNAVES IN HANDING OVER MILLIONS OF SHILLINGS TO KENYANS "WHEN HAND WRITING WAS CLEARLY ON THE WALL" AS TO KENYAN INTENTIONS. IN THEIR DEFENSE, CRITICIZED OFFICIALS ARE PROVIDING UNVERIFIABLE DESCRIPTIONS OF DECEITFUL KENYAN BEHAVIOR.

6. GATHERING OF LEADERS FROM ALL OVER TANZANIA IN RECENT WEEKS ALSO PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE FROM LAKE VICTORIA TANZANIAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAR ES 00611 01 OF 02 091207Z

PORTS (BUKOB, MWANZA, MUSOMA) TO LAMBAST TANGOV FOR FAILING TO GET KENYANS TO PROVIDE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY LAKE STEAMER SERVICE FROM RAILHEAD AT KISUMU PORT, KENYA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 00611 02 OF 02 091216Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-04 PM-03 DODE-00 /055 W

-----091221Z 108730 /15

O 091120Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4010

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 0611

LIMDIS/NOFORN

7. INTO THIS HEIGHTENED ATMOSPHERE OF EVER PRESENT NAIROBIPHOBIA, PARTY IDEOLOGUES DEMANDED VIGILANCE AGAINST KENYAN CAPITALISTS WHO MIGHT TRY TO SABOTAGE 6 FEBRUARY TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN NORTHERN TANZANIA OF ESTABLISHMENT SOCIALISM. SECURITY AUTHORITIES RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY BY PROPOSING TO PRESIDENT NYERERE THAT BORDER TO KENYA BE CLOSED.

8. ACCORDING TO ONE INFORMANT, NYERERE AUTHORIZED THIS DRASTIC ACTION AFTER RECEIVING DESCRIPTIONS OF ALLEGED HUMILIATIONS IN NAIROBI OF SENIOR TANZANIAN OFFICIALS OF EAST AFRICAN AIRLINES. AT LEAST ONE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ARRIVED BACK IN TANZANIA AFTER A DECADE IN A HIGH POSITION IN NAIROBI "NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO BRING HIS COOKING POTS OUT WITH HIM". SUCH HARASSMENT STORIES HAVE BEEN WIDELY CIRCULATED BY TANGOV MEDIA HERE.

9. WHY THE SILENCE? TANGOV CLOSED THE BORDER THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 3 AND HAS SAID NOTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT IT THROUGH MID-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAR ES 00611 02 OF 02 091216Z

DAY 9 FEBRUARY. KENYAN PUBLICATIONS ALSO BANNED SINCE 3 FEBRUARY. THIS SUGGESTS NYERE FELT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE BUT WORRIED THAT HIS PEOPLE WOULD NOT SUPPORT HIM. THIS IS SIMILAR TO HIS DECISION TO SEND TROOPS TO MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE THEY HAVE SUSTAINED CASUALTIES FROM RHODESIANS. TANGOV HAS PUBLICLY DENIED THAT IT HAS SOLDIERS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

10. PREDICTIONS. TANGOV NOW APPEARS TO HAVE A FAIRLY LIMIED RANGE OF OPTIONS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

A) NEVER HAVING ANNOUNCED CLOSING OF BORDER WITH KENYA, TANGOV CAN EQUALLY QUIETLY OPEN IT AND LET KENYAN VEHICLES AND PLANES GO HOME.

B) TANGOV CAN REOPEN BORDER BUT KEEP VEHICLES AND PLANES AS

BARGAINING CHIPS IN UPCOMING TALKS WITH KENYANS OVER DISRUPTION EAST AFRICAN AIRLINES ASSETS.

C) TANGOV COULD DO EITHER OF ABOVE AND ALSO ENGAGE IN STRENUOUS PROGRAM OF RE-DIRECTING PROCUREMENT AWAY FROM KENYA "TO TEACH THEM A LESSON".

D) TANGOV COULD KEEP BORDER CLOSED BUT GRADUALLY EVOLVE PROCEDURES TO ALLOW ESSENTIAL CROSSINGS AND ELIMINATE HARDSHIP FOR LOCAL PEOPLE, THOUGH THIS WOULD INVOLVE SEVERE CONSTRICTION OF NORTHERN TANZANIA'S NAIROBI-BASED TOURIST INDUSTRY.

11. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE TANGOV MIGHT GO ANY OF WAYS OUTLINED ABOVE. HOWEVER, ITS OFFICIAL SILENCE ON BORDER CLOSURE SUGGESTS IT IS DELIBERATELY KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN AND AT MOMENT WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THERE WILL BE FAIRLY PROMPT LOW KEY RESTORATION OF MOST TRAFFIC ACROSS THE BORDER WITH TANGOV UNDERTAKING MORE PRACTICAL, LONG-TERM APPROACH TO REDUCING ITS DEPENDENCE ON KENYA.

SPAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REVANCHISM, BORDER INCIDENTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, FOREIGN TRADE, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DARES00611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-0253
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770260/aaaacanv.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b49cacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 NAIROBI 1693, 77 DAR ES SALAAM 590
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3371803
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TANZANIA CLOSURE OF BORDER WITH KENYA
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, EAIR, TZ, KE, EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b49cacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009